Reply to Office Action of 08/19/2005   Appl. No.:09/910,937
Amendment Dated: November 16, 2005   Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-005/2899

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 08/19/2005 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants first note with appreciation withdrawal of Hariu reference based on the affidavit and declaration filed on 07/20/2005 under 37 CFR

5   § 1.131. However, claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobson as in view of Bhatia *et al* (Bhatia) and Hirano.

By virtue of this response, claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12, 13, 15-20, 22-24, 32, and 34-44 are sought to be amended, and claims 2, 14, 21 and 33 are sought to be canceled. The amendments and cancellation are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their

10   entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-13, 15-20, 22-32, and 34-40 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration further in view of the below remarks.

As noted above, claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobson as in view of Bhatia *et al* (Bhatia) and Hirano. The claims, at

15   least as amended, are believed to be allowable over the art of record. In particular, amended independent claim 1 recites in relevant parts:

A method of supporting network address translation (NAT) in a service selection gateway (SSG) device, said SSG connecting a plurality of remote systems on a network to a plurality of service domains, each of said plurality of

20   remote systems being assigned a corresponding one of a plurality of original addresses, *wherein each of said plurality of new addresses is used for one of said plurality of remote systems in a corresponding service domain, each of said plurality of original addresses comprising a local address in said network and each of said plurality of new addresses comprising an external address for*

25   *the remote system in the service domain,* said method being performed in said SSG, said method comprising:
maintaining a plurality of NAT tables in said gateway device, wherein each of said plurality of NAT tables maintains a corresponding plurality of entries representing a mapping information of original addresses to corresponding new

30   addresses, wherein *said plurality of entries are partitioned according to service domains such that entries corresponding to each service domain are stored in a single one of said plurality of NAT tables,* wherein an entry corresponds to a service domain if the corresponding new address is in the service domain;
receiving a packet containing an original address;

Page 11 of 12

Reply to Office Action of 08/19/2005   Appl. No.:09/910,937
Amendment Dated: November 16, 2005   Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-005/2899

                  translating said address into a new address by examining one of said
plurality of NAT tables;
                  substituting said new address for said original address in said packet to
generate a new packet; and
                  sending said new packet.
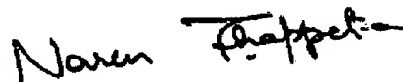(Amended Independent Claim 1, *Emphasis Added*)

Thus, the entries in an SSG according to an aspect of the present invention are partitioned according to service domains such that entries corresponding to each service domain are stored in a single NAT table.

The references of record, either individually or in combination do not disclose or suggest such a feature. At least for such a reason, independent claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

The remaining independent claims 13, 20 and 32 are also allowable at least for a similar reason. The presented dependent claims are allowable over the art of record at least as depending from an allowable base claim. Thus, all the claims presented claims are allowable over the art of record.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 16, 2005

Narendra Reddy Thappeta
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number: 41,416

Page 12 of 12